UNITED
NATIONS

A S

General Assembly Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

A/47/844
S/25017
24 December 1992

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Forty-seventh session
Agenda item 35
THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-seventh year

Letter dated 24 December 1992 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a letter from the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Shimon Peres, addressed to his colleagues around the world regarding the recent events in our area (see annex). In his letter, the Minister for Foreign Affairs reiterates Israel's strong commitment to the Middle East peace negotiations process in both its bilateral and multilateral frameworks as a means of achieving a lasting peace in the region.

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 35, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Gad YAACOBI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Israel
to the United Nations

ANNEX

Letter dated 23 December 1992 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Israel addressed to his colleagues around the world

Allow me to share with you some thoughts about the latest events in our area.

In recent weeks, we have witnessed some substantive progress in the Middle East peace negotiations, in both the bilateral and multilateral tracks. These positive developments have frustrated, first and foremost, the enemies of peace, namely, Hamas and Islamic Jihad. Their ideologies are predicated on hatred for the West, on the destruction of Israel and, indeed, the rejection of any notion of peace in our area. These elements have a proven track record in this regard over recent years in the Middle East.

The latest wave of vicious terrorist activity, culminating in the brutal murder of Sergeant-Major Nissim Toledano, is being carried out primarily by Hamas and Islamic Jihad. These are extremist organizations financed and instructed by Iran, which act against Israelis as well as mainstream Palestinians. Hamas and Islamic Jihad fear nothing more than a genuine Israeli-Palestinian reconciliation. Since the Madrid Conference they have made every effort to kill the peace process with one single weapon: indiscriminate terror. They recently attempted to assassinate Feisal Husseini and planned to attack a Jerusalem high school - both of which were fortunately averted.

We regret, therefore, United Nations Security Council resolution 799 (1992), which failed to recognize the compelling need of Israel to defend and protect its citizens against this brutal wave of terror. Furthermore, the resolution did not condemn in any way those acts of terror and violence by Hamas and Islamic Jihad elements directed against Arab and Jew alike. Notwithstanding this, we have agreed to the suggestion of the Secretary-General to send his representative to Israel on a goodwill mission in the very near future.

I would like to assure you that the decision to temporarily exclude the Hamas and Islamic Jihad operatives was taken after a great deal of consideration. Israel took this exceptional step in order to ensure that the Hamas and Islamic Jihad terror network would be severly curtailed, which would consequently enable the peace talks to proceed in the desired direction. The Government of Israel, which has proven time and again its commitment to the Madrid process, will not allow the rejectionists of peace to prevail. The peace process will not be able to endure across the negotiating tables in foreign capitals, unless it is allowed to develop on the ground, between the very peoples it is designed to serve.

The Supreme Court of Israel sitting as the High Court of Justice has twice considered the petitions for the return of those subject to the temporary exclusion orders. Furthermore, the people removed will have recourse to individual appeals within 60 days of their removal.

I would like to conclude by stating categorically that Israel remains staunchly committed to pursuing peace in the bilateral and multilateral negotiations. We hope and urge that our partners to these negotiations will engage in these talks with the necessary vigour and determination to attain a lasting peace among all the peoples in the region. We are, indeed, looking forward to the continuation of the peace talks at the earliest possible opportunity. This would be the most appropriate guarantee that those dedicated to the furtherance of peace will ultimately succeed.

(Signed) Shimon PERES
Minister for Foreign Affairs